

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)**

PROJECT PACT SHEET

REVISION 1: 3 MAY 1995

**TAG REVIEW DATE: 2 MARCH 1995
30 AUGUST 1995**

1. SITE NAME: Frankford Arsenal

SITE NUMBER: C03PA004200

LOCATION:

City: Philadelphia

County: Philadelphia

State: Pennsylvania

PROJECT NUMBER: C03PA004204

CATEGORY: OE/CWM

ASR RAC: 1

INPR RAC: 1

2. POC'S:

TECHNICAL MANAGER: GEO DISTRICT POC:

Name: Richard L. Pike Name: Glenn Earhart

Office: CEHND-OE-DC Office: CFNAB-PP-E

Phone: (256)895-1559 Phone: (410)962-6113

GEO DIVISION POC: **HEADQUARTERS POC:**

Name: Celia Orgel Name: James K. Coppola

Office: CESWD-PT-M Office: CEMP-RF

Phone: (212)264-6484 Phone: (202)504-4992

SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

Name: Gerald V. Schwalbe

Office: CE1MS-PM-M

Phone: (314)331-8788

3. SITE DESCRIPTION: Frankford Arsenal is in the highly urbanized area of northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 5 miles from downtown. The 110 acres site is immediately north of Frankford Creek and adjacent to the Delaware River. Site elevations range from 10 to 20 feet NGVD, producing a low and flat terrain. The site is now a public park

and recreation area , operated by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, and a private business park known as the Arsenal Business Center.

4. SITE HISTORY: Originally established in May 1816 as the U.S. Arsenal on Frankford Creek, the Arsenal has been used to store ordnance throughout its 150 year history. It has also played a major role in the production, testing and research of munitions. Accidental explosions occurred during its active life killing several workers. Caves and tunnels were constructed for storing and transporting the ammunition.

Frankford Arsenal, one of the US's largest and longest surviving ordnance production centers, has produced ammunition for small arms since 1864. During WW II production reached 8 million rounds per day. Production consisted primarily of .30, .45, and .50 caliber rounds.

Testing and experiments with ordnance started in 1864. Work included testing powder, development of a toxic bullet, and field testing. At least 31 ballistic ranges were used in 1975. Small quantities of C~ were used in the laboratories. There are reports of rounds overshooting the ranges onto private property and excess being dumped into the Delaware River.

After the Arsenal closed in 1977, a decontamination and cleanup project completed in 1980 for USATHMA, the site was released for unrestricted use. The work included remediation of radiological contamination, explosive residues, and heavy metal residues. However based on the USATHMA report submitted in January 1981, it is concluded that all potential areas of contamination were not investigated.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Ordnance-related site activities consisted predominantly of the production, storage, and testing of small arms ammunition. Small quantities of CWM were once on site but it is improbable that CWM can still be found.

Frankford Creek and Delaware River

SIZE: Undefined but area is immediately adjacent to site

USE: Ammunition was transferred by water, excess was dumped into water, and rounds which overshoot targets sometimes landed in water.

SUSPECTED OEW CONTAMINATION: Small arms ordnance

ASR recommends: NOFA

Tunnels joining both sides of site

SIZE: 14 miles

USE: Transported munitions

SUSPECTED DEW CONTAMINATION: Small arms ordnance

ASR recommends: ESI

Unloading tunnel beneath old wharf

SIZE: Undefined

USE: Transported munitions

SUSPECTED DEW CONTAMINATION: Small arms ordnance

ASK recommends: ESI
Existing indoor rifle ranges
SIZE: Undefined
USE: Testing munitions
SUSPECTED DEW CONTAMINATION: OEW residue
ASR recommends: EE/CA

Numerous underground vaults, bomb shelters, & other structures
SIZE: Undefined
USE: Munitions storage
SUSPECTED OEW CONTAMINATION: Small arms ordnance
ASK recommends: EE/CA

6. CURRENT STATUS:

Archives Search Report completed.

7. STRATEGY:

PM-SO review recommends RAC 1 based on potential for buried or submerged OE/CWM. The standard EE/CA process, beginning with a thorough review of the 1980 decontamination project is recommended. Institutional controls are to be implemented along river including signage and geographical CE District marking maps of this area warning against dredging.

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

PHASE I: PRESENTED TO TAG GROUP FOR DECISIONS/RESOLUTION.

PHASE II: REMAINING ISSUES AND CONCERNS IDENTIFIED TO PM PRIOR TO PROJECT START.

PHASE I: The TAG should determine how and by who the review of previous work should be conducted.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING /BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only